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COMMERCIAL FISHERIES OUTLOOK

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MARKETS SUPPLY DEMAND

April - June 1958

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Fishery Leaflet 336 j j

United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Department of the Interior

Fishery Leaflet 336 jj

Washington 25, D. C. April 1958

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Prepared in the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES OUTLOOK

April-June 1958

THE OUTLOOK AT A GLANCE

BUSINESS ACTIVITY	Upturn possibly in last quarter.
FOOD	Plentiful supplies, strong markets.
FISHERY PRODUCTION	Activities seasonally high in most fisheries.
COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS	March 1 stocks almost 26 million pounds below last year.
MARKETS, EDIBLE FISH	Steady-to-firm for most species.
MARKETS, INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS	Fish oils and meal steady.
IMPORTS	Continue high for groundfish fillets, sardines, shrimp, spiny lobsters, and tuna.
EXPORTS	Light; expected to level off for canned mackerel and canned salmon which were high in 1957.

GENERAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

Recession in economic activity continues. In February, industrial production, employment, incomes, and retail sales again declined. Unemployment rose to new postwar highs.

PERSONAL INCOME - During February, personal income was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of $342 billion, about $2 billion lower than in January.

CONSUMER PRICES - The average of consumer prices rose 0.6 percent in January. An increase in food prices of 1.8 percent was the most important factor in the overall rise.

EMPLOYMENT - Total unemployment increased further in February to 5.2 million. This was 2.1 million higher than February 1957, and represented 6.7 percent of the civilian labor force. Large declines continued in durable goods industries, and construction employment decreased sharply.

CONSTRUCTION - Starts of private housing fell, in February, to an annual rate of 890,000 units compared with 1,030,000 in January. The decline reflected adverse weather conditions in many areas of the country. The value of construction activity declined to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of $47.5 billion from $48.2 billion in January.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION - Output of durable goods in February was about 16 percent below February, 1957. This reflected widespread curtailment in equipment and consumer goods industries, and sharp reductions in production of steel and most other materials. Production of consumer durable goods was down 20 percent from a year earlier, and at the lowest level since December 1953.

FOOD OUTLOOK

Supplies of principal food products will continue to be plentiful generally, with some slight reductions in certain commodities.

MEATS

A small decline in meat production for the second consecutive year is expected in 1958. Beef supplies will be lower. Pork will increase but not enough to offset decline in beef. Lamb supplies probably will remain below last year throughout most of 1958.

POULTRY AND EGGS

Turkey crop expected to equal record year 1957 which had output of 80.6 million birds. Per capita consumption also about equal to 1957. Broiler supplies running about 10 percent above 1957. Egg output during seasonal peak will be smaller than that during Spring of 1957.

DAIRY PRODUCTS

Milk production is expected to run from 1 to 1.5 million pounds above the 1957 record, and to exceed commercial use. Total supply of dairy products for consumption will be largest of record except for the year 1955.

VEGETABLES

Total supplies of fresh vegetables are much below a year ago. Serious damage to Florida crops has reduced the United States' output of winter vegetables about 18 percent below normal. Canned vegetable supplies available for distribution into mid-1958 will run about same as last year. Frozen vegetables to continue in heavy supply.

FATS AND OILS

Supplies of food fats and oils are expected to be as large as last year. Prospects are that exports will not be as high as in 1957. A sharp drop in cottonseed oil output will be offset by greater lard and soybean oil production.

GENERAL FISHERY SITUATION

The United States and Alaska catch of fish equaled about 4.8 billion pounds in 1957. This figure was lower than that of 1956, but was the third highest since 1941. Food fish represented 2.68 billion pounds, and industrial fish totaled approximately 2.12 billion pounds.

COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS on March 1, 1958 were about 26 million pounds less than those on the same date in 1957. Holdings of whiting, shrimp, and sablefish were up from the year earlier; most of all the other species were down.

PRODUCTION in many fisheries will rise to peak seasonal levels.

SHRIMP landings will rise during second quarter, and canning resumed as these landings increase.

FRESH-WATER FISH will be in plentiful supply during this quarter.

HALIBUT fishing season will be opened on May 4, 1958, except for Area 3B which opened on April 1.

COD, FLOUNDER, HADDOCK, AND OCEAN PERCH will constitute the major portions of the New England landings during the second quarter.

CANNED MACKEREL exports were 17 million pounds in 1957 - a seven-fold increase over that in 1956. Sardine exports dropped 61 percent.

SALMON production dropped in 1957 because of a decrease in the Alaska catch. Actually, the catch in the Pacific Coast States was higher than 1956 by about 7 million pounds, still far below expectations.

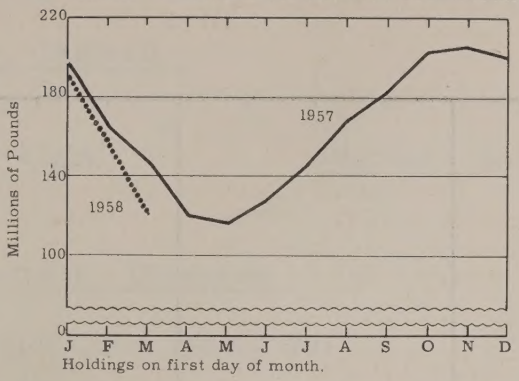
Fishery Products in Cold-Storage

March 1

1958.....120,270,000 Lbs.

1957.....146,204,000 Lbs.

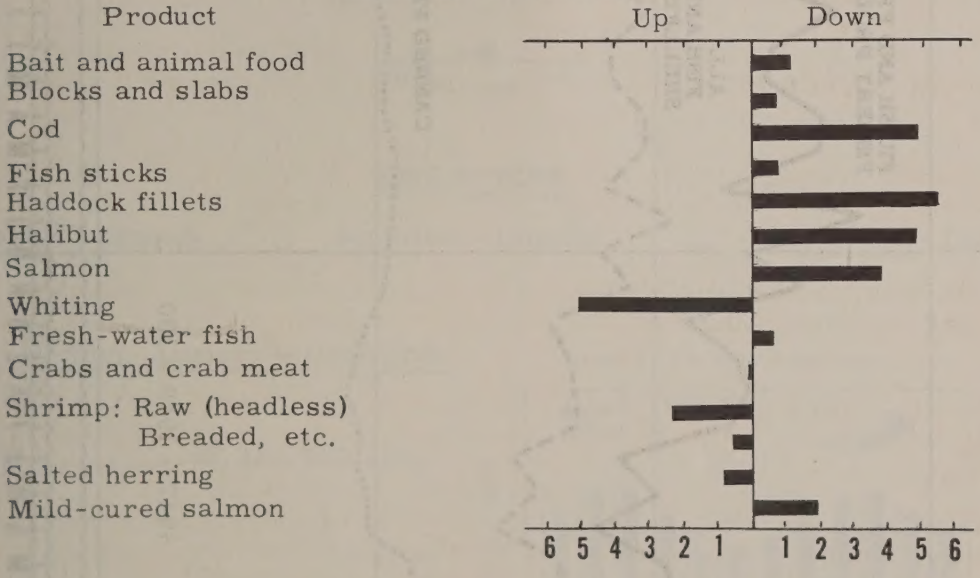
CHART 1 - FISHERY PRODUCTS IN COLD STORAGE



March 1 cold-storage holdings of fish and shellfish were almost 18 percent below those of the same date in 1957. The very favorable Lenten demand has greatly reduced inventories, and the outmovement during February alone was more than 36 million pounds of fishery products. Major changes in species holdings from March 1, 1957 are indicated in the accompanying chart:

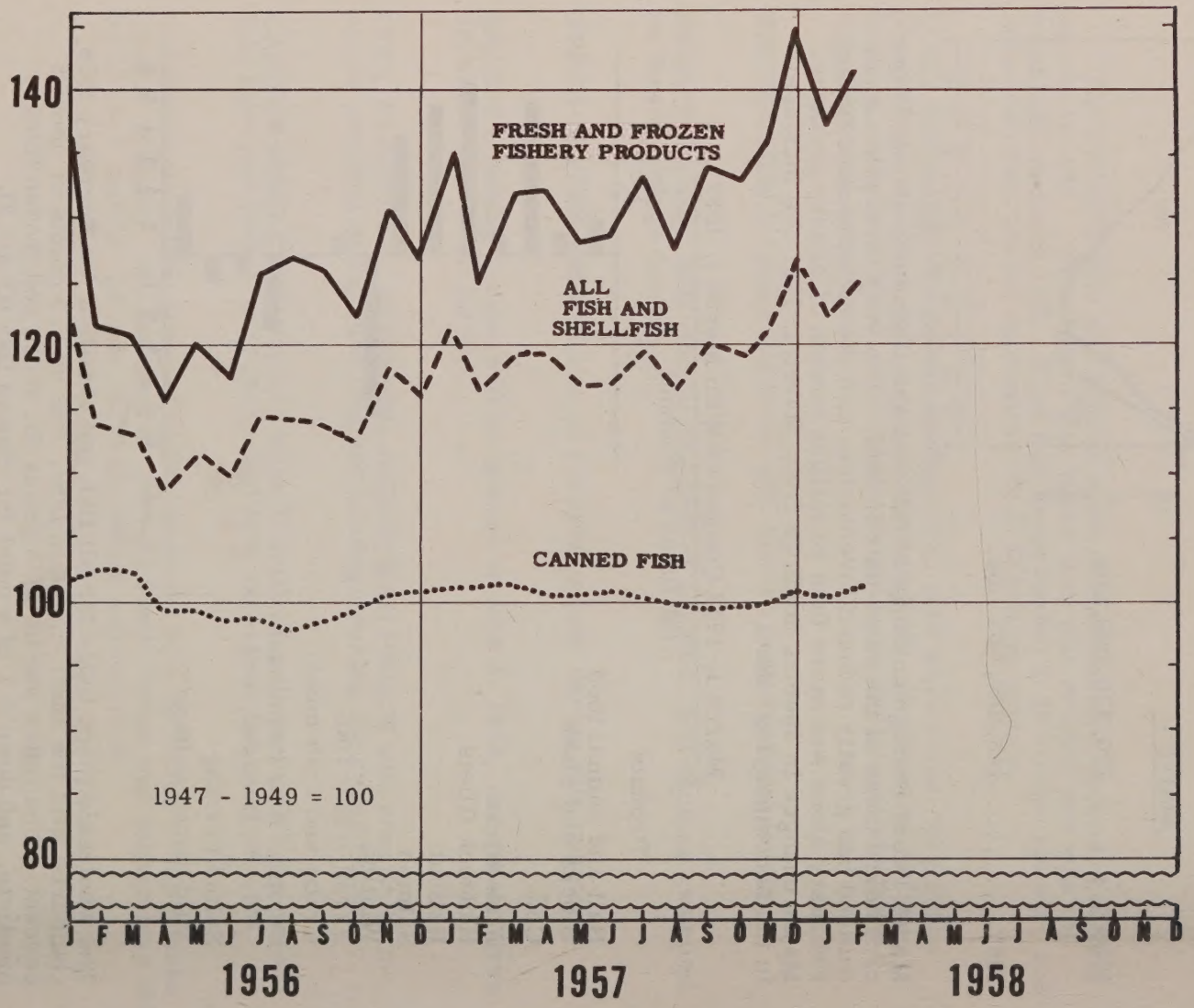
March 1, 1958 Compared With March 1, 1957

(Millions of Pounds)



The wholesale price index for all fish and shellfish for February 1958, compared with the same month in 1957, was up 9.5 points or about 8 percent. The index was up 16.5 points for fresh and frozen fishery products, and down 0.1 of a point for canned fish (Chart 2).

CHART 2 - INDEXES OF WHOLESALE FISH PRICES


140
120
100
80
FRESH AND FROZEN FISHERY PRODUCTS
ALL FISH AND SHELLFISH
CANNED FISH
1947 - 1949 = 100
J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D
1956
1957
1958

SPECIFIC MARKETING SITUATIONS

Salt-water Fish

ANCHOVIES, CANNED

Market - Steady Supplies - Light Demand - Good

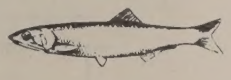
Domestic Pack, January - December

1957..... 535, 546 Std. Cases (48 Halves)

1956..... 815, 146 Std. Cases (48 Halves)

Production of canned anchovies during 1957 was about 37 percent below that of 1956. During January and February of 1958, production continued poor and was running about 80 percent below the corresponding 1957 period. Supplies will continue very light during the second quarter.

Prices - should rise as result of short supplies.



FISH STICKS

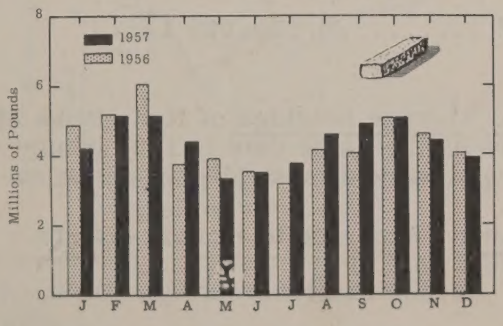
Market - Steady Supplies - Liberal Demand - Good

Production, January - December

1957..... 52, 434, 000 Lbs.

1956..... 52, 562, 000 Lbs.

CHART 3 - FISH STICK PRODUCTION



The United States production of fish sticks during 1957 was 128, 000 pounds below that during 1956. Cooked fish sticks accounted for 89 percent of the 1957 total. Fish portions continue to increase in popularity (Chart 3).

Cold-Storage Holdings

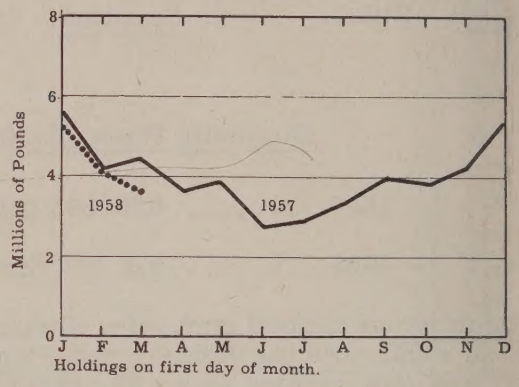
Fish Sticks

March 1

1958..... 3,599,000 Lbs.

1957..... 4,478,000 Lbs.

CHART 4 - FISH STICKS IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-Storage Holdings

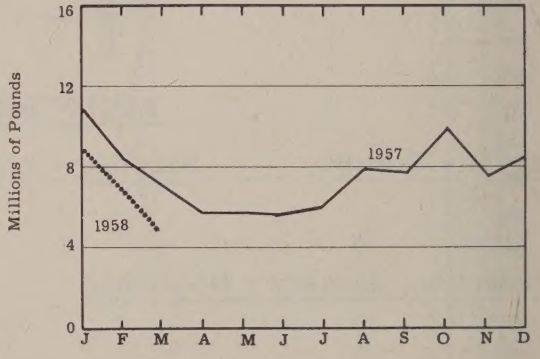
Blocks and Slabs

March 1

1958..... 4,887,000 Lbs.

1957..... 5,659,000 Lbs.

CHART 5 - BLOCKS AND SLABS IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-storage holdings of fish sticks March 1 were 19.6 percent less than those on the same date in 1957 (Chart 4). Blocks and slabs in cold-storage were almost 14 percent below holdings on March 1, 1957 (Chart 5).

Prices - expected to remain steady.

FLOUNDERS AND SOLE

Market - Steady Supplies - Light-to-Moderate Demand - Good

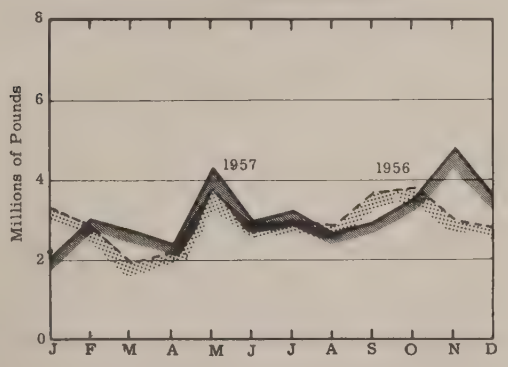
Massachusetts Landings

(January - December)

1957.....37,774,000 Lbs.

1956.....34,577,000 Lbs.

CHART 6 - LANDINGS OF FLOUNDER AND SOLE, MASSACHUSETTS



Landings during 1957, in Massachusetts, were approximately 9 percent more than those in 1956. Increased landings during the second quarter are expected. Market will be steady, and demand should continue good (Chart 6).

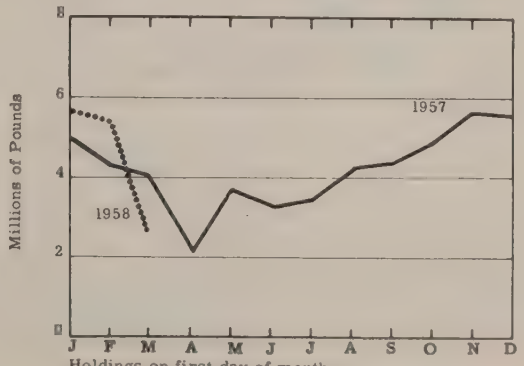
Cold-Storage Holdings

March 1

1958.....2,684,000 Lbs.

1957.....4,157,000 Lbs.

CHART 7 - FLOUNDER AND SOLE FILLETS IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-storage holdings on March 1 were 35.4 percent lower than those on the same date in 1957 (Chart 7). Increased landings, in second quarter, will help replenish low supply.

FLOUNDERS AND SOLE (Cont.)

Imports, January - December

(Fillets)

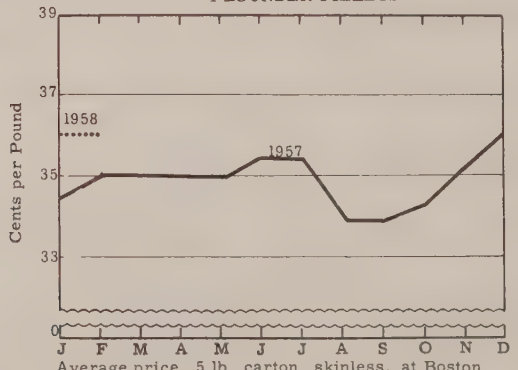
1957.....14,542,000 Lbs.

1956.....13,187,000 Lbs.

Imports of flounder and sole during 1957 were almost 10 percent higher than those during the year earlier. Canada supplied 13.8 million pounds in 1957, and 12.9 million pounds in 1956.

Prices are expected to remain steady through the second quarter (Chart 8).

CHART 8 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF YELLOWTAIL FLOUNDER FILLETS



Average price, 5 lb. carton, skinless, at Boston.

GROUNDFISH FILLETS, INCLUDING OCEAN PERCH

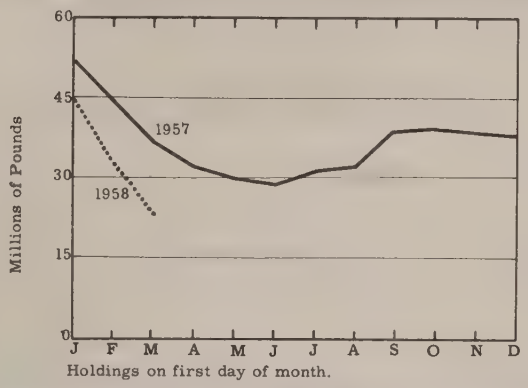
Cold-Storage Holdings

March 1

1958.....22,926,000 Lbs.

1957.....42,278,000 Lbs.

CHART 9 - GROUNDFISH FILLETS IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

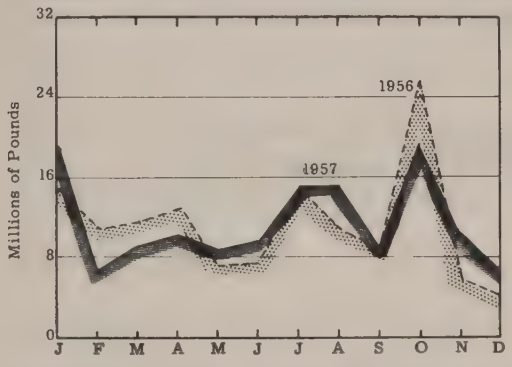
Cold-storage holdings on March 1 were approximately 46 percent lower than those of a year earlier, with greatest declines in cod, haddock, and ocean perch. Stocks will build up appreciably during second quarter (Chart 9).

Imports, January - December

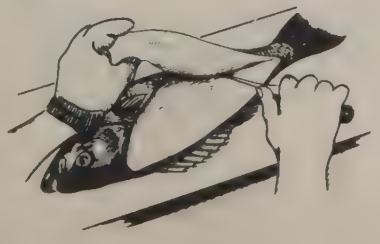
1957.....141,288,000 Lbs.

1956.....138,714,000 Lbs.

CHART 10 - IMPORTS OF GROUNDFISH FILLETS



Imports - During the twelve-month period of 1957, imports of groundfish fillets totaled 141.3 million pounds. This was an increase of 2.6 million pounds over total 1956 imports. The January 1958 imports amounted to 10.7 million pounds, a decline of 44 percent compared with January 1957. Canada accounted for 88 percent of the month's total imports (Chart 10).



COD FILLETS

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

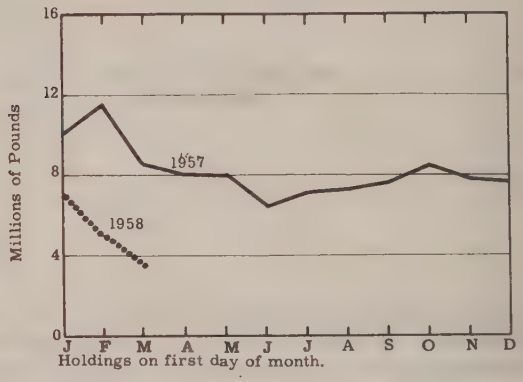
Cold-Storage Holdings

March 1

1958.....3,493,000 Lbs.

1957.....8,464,000 Lbs.

CHART 11 - COD FILLETS IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-storage holdings of cod fillets on March 1 were down 59 percent from those on the same date in 1957. Canadian holdings of cod fillets on March 1 totaled 1,209,000 pounds, a 75 percent decrease from holdings a year earlier (Chart 11).

Landings of cod during the second quarter should increase and begin to build up depleted stocks.

Imports, January - December

1957.....45,545,000 Lbs.

1956.....43,500,000 Lbs.

Imports of cod fillets during 1957 were about 2 million pounds above those in 1956. Second quarter imports should be rather high.

HADDOCK FILLETS

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Cold-Storage Holdings

March 1

1958.....2,754,000 Lbs.

1957.....8,256,000 Lbs.

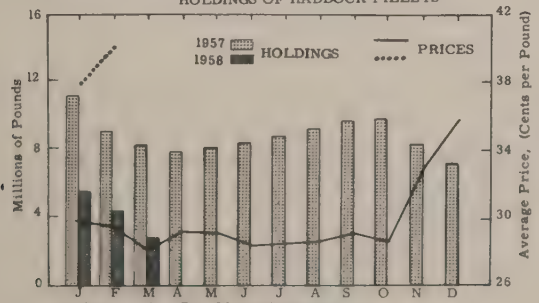
Cold-storage holdings of haddock fillets on March 1 showed a decline of 67 percent from those on the same date a year earlier (Chart 12). Canadian holdings on March 1 were down 56 percent below those on March 1, 1957.

Landings during this second quarter should increase considerably over first three months, especially during April and early May.

Imports of haddock fillets during 1957 totaled about 28 million pounds, a 10 percent decrease from 1956 imports. Canada supplied about 68 percent of 1957 haddock fillet imports. Second quarter will bring increase in these imports over first quarter.

Prices, which had risen to 40 cents per pound in February will not remain as high during second quarter, but will be higher than those in second quarter of year earlier (Chart 12).

CHART 12 - WHOLESALE PRICES AND COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS OF HADDOCK FILLETS



Holdings - First Day Of Month.
Price - 1-lb. small, skins on, at Boston.

OCEAN PERCH FILLETS

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Cold-Storage Holdings

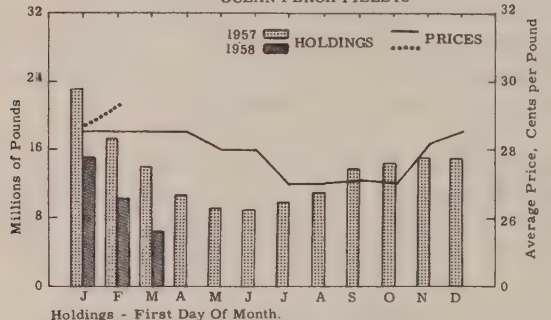
March 1

1958..... 6,339,000 Lbs.

1957.....13,840,000 Lbs.

Cold-storage holdings of ocean perch on March 1 were down 54 percent from those on the same date in 1957. They will reach the seasonal low during the second quarter, then rise sharply (Chart 13).

CHART 13 - COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS AND PRICE OF OCEAN PERCH FILLETS



Holdings - First Day Of Month.
Price - 1-lb. carton, large, skins on, at Boston.

Prices, which have risen gradually from the beginning of the last quarter in 1957, will continue to rise slightly higher during second quarter then level off (Chart 13).

OCEAN PERCH FILLETS (Cont.)

Imports

January - December

1957.....16,682,000 Lbs.

1956.....21,597,000 Lbs.

Imports of ocean perch fillets during 1957 were down almost 23 percent from those during 1956. Canada supplied approximately 68 percent of the total in 1957. Iceland, the second largest exporter of this species to the United States, supplied 23 percent of the 1957 total. Imports, during the second quarter, probably will fall off slightly.

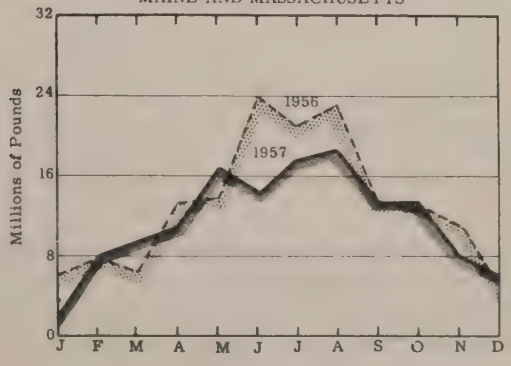
Landings of ocean perch in Maine and Massachusetts during 1957 dropped about 11 percent below those of 1956. Ocean perch catch will rise sharply during the second quarter (Chart 14).

Landings, January - December

1957.....137,251,000 Lbs.

1956.....154,158,000 Lbs.

CHART 14 - LANDINGS OF OCEAN PERCH, MAINE AND MASSACHUSETTS



POLLOCK FILLETS

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

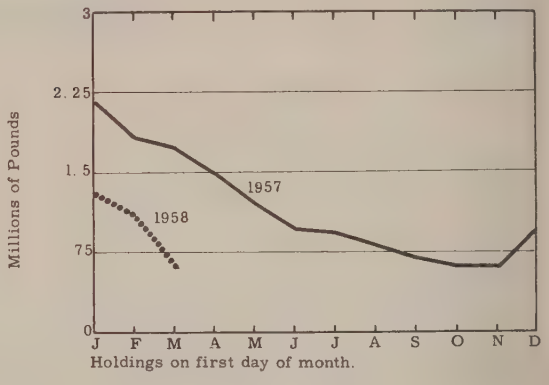
Cold-Storage Holdings

March 1

1958..... 596,000 Lbs.

1957..... 1,745,000 Lbs.

CHART 15 - POLLOCK FILLETS IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-storage holdings of pollock fillets on March 1 were down 66 percent below those on the same date in 1957. Seasonally, inventories decline sharply during the second quarter (Chart 15).

Prices will probably advance because of extremely low holdings and decrease in landings.

HALIBUT

Market - Firm Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

The 1958 Pacific halibut season will be opened to fishing on May 4, except for Area 3B which opened on April 1. As a result, fresh halibut will appear on the market earlier in 1958 than it has at any time since 1941, but in light supply.

HALIBUT (Cont.)

Cold-Storage Holdings

March 1

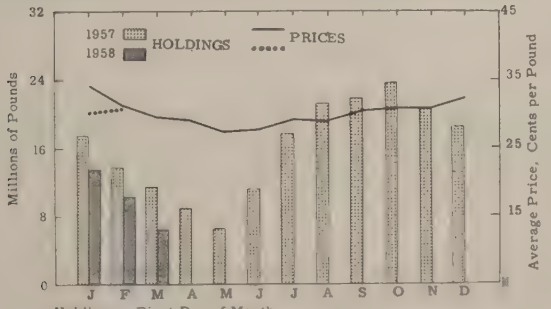
1958..... 6,452,000 Lbs.

1957.....11,487,000 Lbs.

Cold-storage holdings of halibut on March 1 were about 44 percent below those a year earlier. Inventories will continue low throughout second quarter (Chart 16).

Prices will have a tendency to rise slightly at beginning of season, then level off (Chart 16).

CHART 16 - COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS AND WHOLESALE PRICE OF HALIBUT



Holdings - First Day of Month.
Price - Western dressed, 20-80 lbs., frozen, at New York

HERRING, SEA

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Light

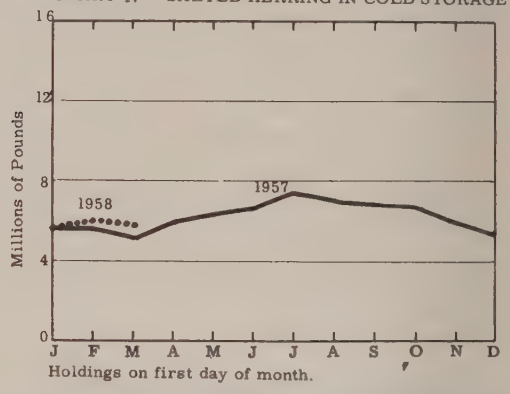
Cold-Storage Holdings

March 1

1958..... 5,899,000 Lbs.

1957..... 5,146,000 Lbs.

CHART 17 - SALTED HERRING IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-storage holdings of salted sea herring on March 1 were 15 percent higher than those on March 1, 1957. Stocks should gradually increase during this second quarter and reach a peak shortly after mid-year (Chart 17).

Prices should continue steady throughout the second quarter.

MACKEREL, FRESH AND FROZEN

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Cold-storage holdings of mackerel on March 1 were about 45 percent lower than those on the same date in 1957. Holdings on March 1, 1958 amounted to 681,000 pounds compared with 1,242,000 pounds on March 1, 1957.

Landings of mackerel along the Atlantic Coast should reach a peak toward the end of the second quarter, but will not be significant.

Prices will probably remain steady.

MACKEREL, CANNED

Market - Active Supplies - Light Demand - Good

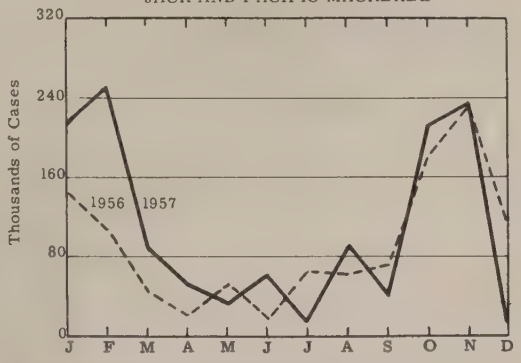
Pack of Pacific and Jack Mackerel

January - December

1957.....1,336,000 Std. Cases

1956.....1,126,000 Std. Cases

CHART 18 - CALIFORNIA PACK OF CANNED JACK AND PACIFIC MACKEREL



Pack of canned mackerel during 1957 was approximately 19 percent higher than that during 1956. However, there has been very little carry over from the fourth quarter of 1957, and stocks are low. Fishing is poor, with little signs of improvement in the near future (Chart 18).

Prices might rise as canned mackerel continues in short supply.

SABLEFISH

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Light

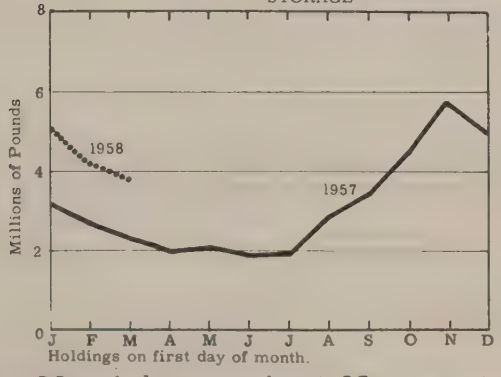
Cold-Storage Holdings

March 1

1958.....3,847,000 Lbs.

1957.....2,326,000 Lbs.

CHART 19 - SABLEFISH (BLACK COD) IN COLD STORAGE



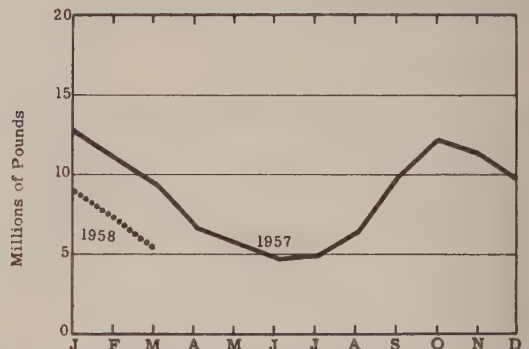
Cold-storage holdings of sablefish on March 1 were about 65 percent higher than those on the same date last year (Chart 19). Sales of this species have not been as expected and consequently much larger inventories exist. Smokers' inventories are quite heavy, and demand probably will not improve until third quarter.

Prices will remain steady.

SALMON, FRESH AND FROZEN

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

CHART 20- SALMON IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-Storage Holdings

March 1

1958..... 5, 327, 000 Lbs.

1957..... 9, 113, 000 Lbs.

Cold-storage holdings of frozen salmon on March 1 were down approximately 42 percent below those on March 1, 1957. There were about 2. 2 million pounds of kings and little more than 1. 5 million pounds of silvers in storage on March 1, 1958 (Chart 20).

Imports, January - December

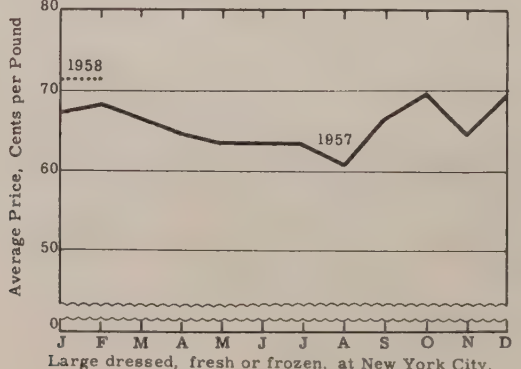
1957.....15, 677, 000 Lbs.

1956.....12, 940, 000 Lbs.

Imports of fresh and frozen salmon during 1957 were 21 percent higher than those in 1956. Almost all of these imports were supplied by Canada.

Prices will remain high and probably increase during the second quarter because of the difficulty in obtaining salmon. Demand is good even with high price (Chart 21).

CHART 21 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF KING SALMON



Large dressed, fresh or frozen, at New York City.

SALMON, MILD-CURED

Market - Steady **Supplies** - Light **Demand** - Good

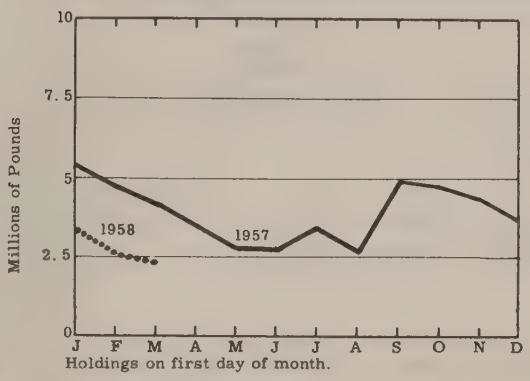
Cold-Storage Holdings

March 1

1958.....2,299,000 Lbs.

1957.....4,223,000 Lbs.

CHART 22- MILD-CURED SALMON IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-storage holdings on March 1 were almost 46 percent below those of March 1, 1957 (Chart 22).

Production - Total Pacific Pack of this specialty in 1957 was 4,965,000 pounds compared with 5,909,000 pounds in 1956.

Prices should remain steady throughout second quarter.

SALMON, CANNED

Market - Active Supplies - Light Demand - Exceeds Supply

Season Pack

(Standard Cases)

	Alaska	Pacific Coast States	Total
1957	2,442,000	743,000	3,185,000
1956	3,023,000	482,000	3,505,000

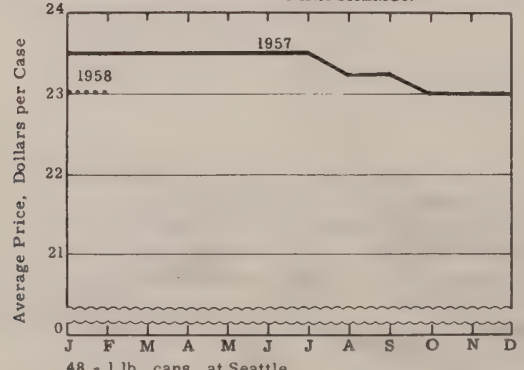
Pack - Final season pack figures for canned salmon in 1957 were 9 percent below those of 1956. The Pacific Coast States packed 23 percent of the total.

Imports - Canned salmon imports during 1957 totaled 24,400,000 pounds compared with 28,802,000 pounds in 1956, which was a record year for imports of this product. Japan supplied almost the entire amount of the imports. Most of the decrease from 1956 was in imports from Canada.

Exports - A recent decision of the United Kigdom to spend $12.6 million for North American canned salmon opens up new export market opportunities. The British currently are spending $9.8 million for the North American product. Canadian and American firms will supply the salmon on a competitive basis.

Wholesale prices for canned salmon should continue strong because of demand exceeding supplies during second quarter (Chart 23).

CHART 23 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF CANNED PINK SALMON



48 - 1 lb. cans, at Seattle.

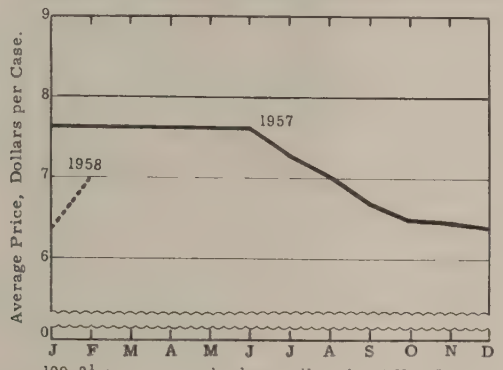
SARDINES, CANNED (MAINE)

Market - Steady Supplies - Light-to-Moderate Demand - Moderate

Pack - The fishing season for Maine sardines begins on April 15, but operations probably will not become active until late in the second quarter. There has been a large increase in sales of this product which has helped to bring the industry's inventory position down to a favorable level.

Prices - The price picture for Maine sardines is strengthening and with the favorable inventory level it should remain steady during the second quarter (Chart 24).

CHART 24 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF MAINE SARDINES



100-3¼ ounce cans, keyless, oil pack, at New York

SARDINES, CANNED (CALIFORNIA)

Market - Steady Supplies - Light Demand - Good

Landings - The California sardine season in 1957 finished up as the third poorest season since 1916, with a total catch of only 20,280 tons, about 36 percent below the 1956 catch.

Exports, January - December

1957.....14,923,000 Lbs.

1956.....39,445,000 Lbs.

Because of the short supply, exports have dropped 62 percent below 1956, and prices are expected to remain high.

SARDINES, CANNED

Imports of Sardines Not-in-Oil

January - December

1957.....4,569,000 Lbs.

1956..... 650,000 Lbs.

Imports of sardines canned not-in-oil during the year 1957 exceeded those during 1956 by almost four million pounds, as shown in the above table. Imports should continue high during the second quarter.

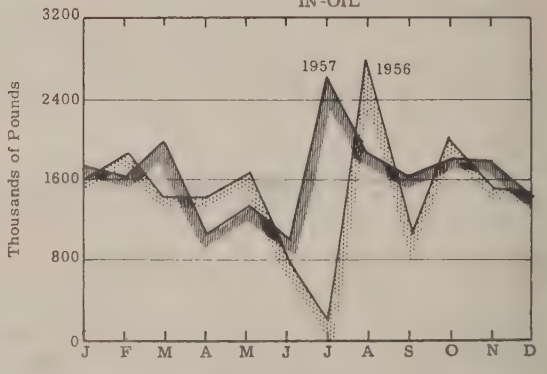
Imports of Sardines-in-Oil

January - December

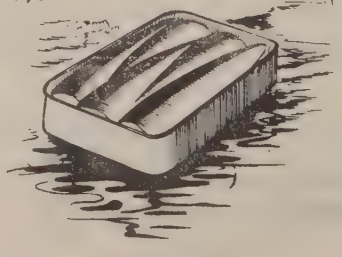
1957.....20,015,000 Lbs.

1956.....18,581,000 Lbs.

CHART 25 - IMPORTS OF SARDINES CANNED IN-OIL



Imports of sardines canned-in-oil during 1957 were approximately 8 percent higher than those in 1956 (Chart 25). During the second quarter, imports will probably drop slightly. Prices will continue firm and steady (Chart 25).



SWORDFISH

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

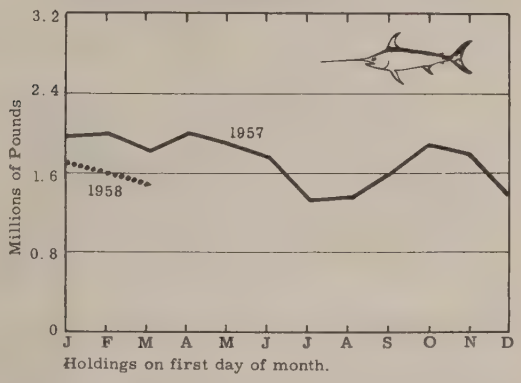
Cold-Storage Holdings

March 1

1958.....1,477,000 Lbs.

1957.....1,831,000 Lbs.

CHART 26- SWORDFISH IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-storage holdings of swordfish on March 1 were about 19 percent lower than those of a year earlier (Chart 26).

Imports of fresh and frozen swordfish totaled 19.0 million pounds in 1957, about 4 percent less than in 1956. Imports from Japan, the principal supplier, decreased slightly.

Prices will continue steady throughout the second quarter.

TUNA, CANNED

Market - Steady Supplies - Liberal Demand - Good

Cannery Receipts of Fresh and Frozen

Tuna, Southern California

January

(In Tons)

	Imports	Domestic	Total
1958	5,097	8,583	13,680
1957	5,440	11,253	16,693

Cannery receipts of fresh and frozen tuna and tunalike fish during the first two months of 1958 have been slightly less than in the same period of 1957. During January, cannery receipts were 18 percent below those of January 1957, with imports representing 37 percent of total.

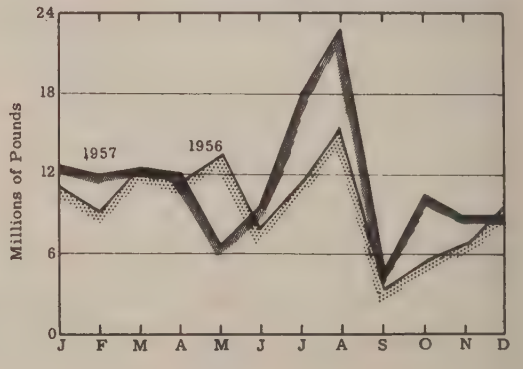
Imports, Frozen Tuna

January - December

1957.....139,289,000 Lbs.

1956.....120,240,000 Lbs.

CHART 27 - IMPORTS OF FRESH AND FROZEN TUNA



Imports of frozen tuna at all United States ports during 1957 increased by almost 16 percent above those in 1956. Imports during second quarter should continue steady (Chart 27). In addition, imports of cooked loins and discs amounted to about 12 million pounds in 1957 compared with almost 4.5 million pounds in 1956.

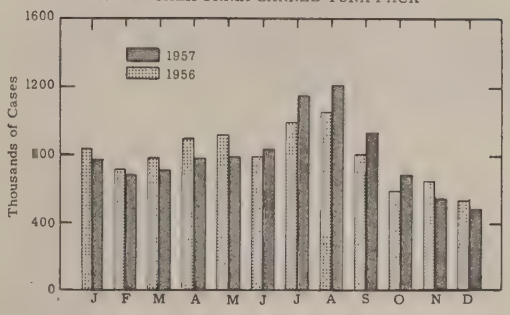
California Pack of Canned Tuna

January - December

1957..... 9,509,940 Std. Cases

1956..... 9,617,000 Std. Cases

CHART 28- CALIFORNIA CANNED TUNA PACK



Pack - Revised figures indicate that the total California pack of canned tuna in 1957 was only 1 percent below that of 1956. Inventory position is good, and supplies throughout the second quarter should be adequate. (Chart 28).

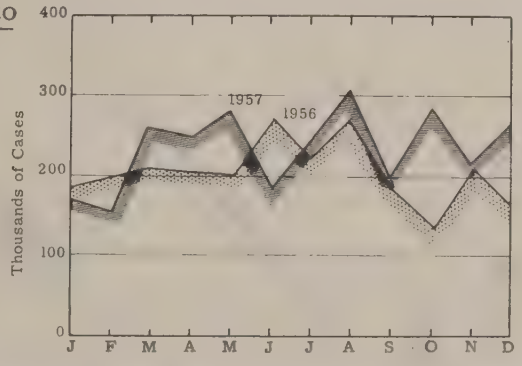
Imports of Canned Tuna and Bonito

January - December

1957..... 2,845,000 Std. Cases

1956..... 2,464,000 Std. Cases

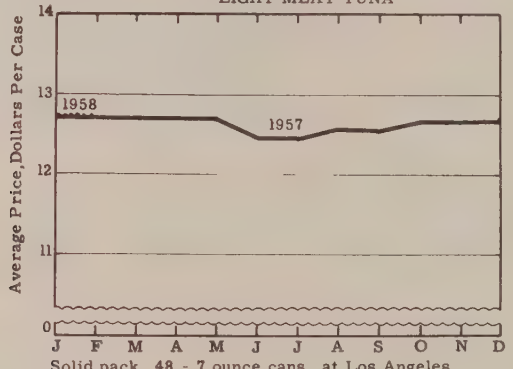
CHART 29- IMPORTS OF CANNED TUNA AND BONITO



Imports of canned tuna and bonito during 1957 were almost 16 percent above those in 1956. During 1957, 93 percent of all tuna imports were from Japan. Most of the bonito imports originate in Peru (Chart 29).

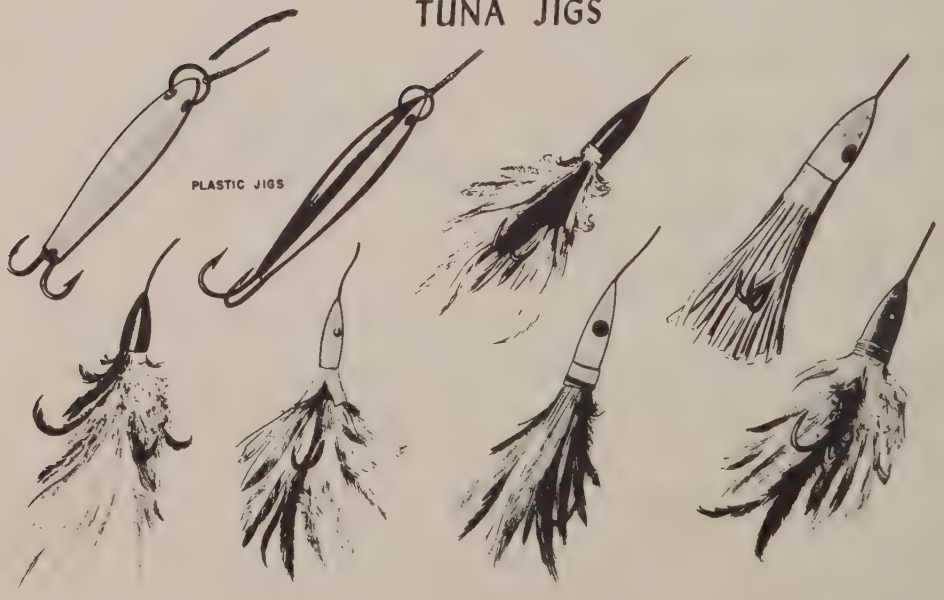
Prices, which remained level since the last quarter of 1957, will begin to stiffen and will probably be a little higher in the second quarter, 1958 (Chart 30).

CHART 30 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF CANNED LIGHT MEAT TUNA



Solid pack, 48 - 7 ounce cans, at Los Angeles.

TUNA JIGS



WHITING

Market - Steady Supplies - Liberal Demand - Good

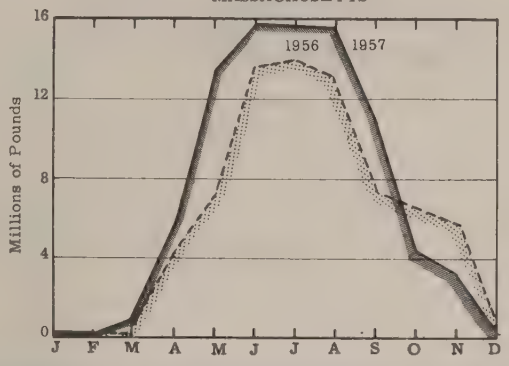
Landings, January - December

(Massachusetts)

1957.....107,090,000 Lbs.

1956..... 72,445,000 Lbs.

CHART 31 - LANDINGS OF WHITING
MASSACHUSETTS



Landings - During 1957, landings of whiting in Massachusetts totaled approximately 48 percent more than those in 1956. Catch should be rather good throughout the second quarter (Chart 31).

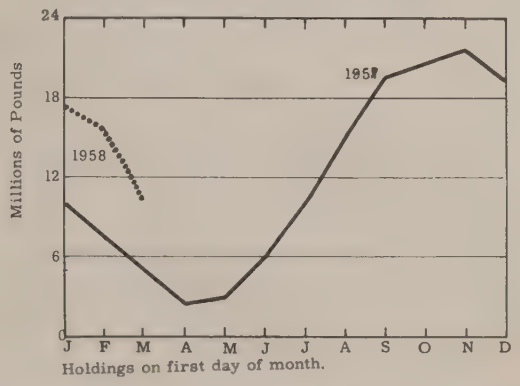
Cold-Storage Holdings

March 1

1958.....10,294,000 Lbs.

1957..... 5,119,000 Lbs.

CHART 32 WHITING IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-storage holdings of whiting on March 1 were more than double those on same date in 1957. The Lenten season caused a substantial reduction in these holdings, but stocks will begin to build up during the second quarter (Chart 32).

Prices should be at about the same level as the second quarter of 1957.

CLAMS, FRESH

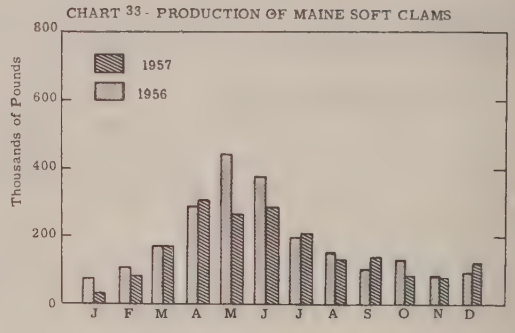
Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Production, January - December

(Maine Soft Clams)

1957.....1,964,000 Lbs.

1956.....2,228,000 Lbs.



Production of soft clams in Maine during 1957 was about 12 percent below that of 1956. The second quarter is seasonally the peak production period (Chart 33).

Prices will probably weaken as supplies become more plentiful.

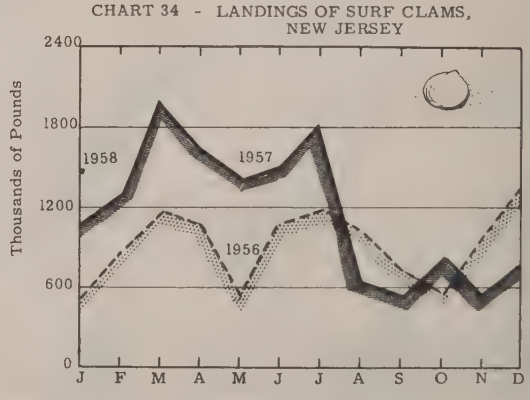
SURF CLAMS

New Jersey Landings

January - December

1957.....14,161,000 Lbs.

1956.....11,079,000 Lbs.



Production of surf clams in New Jersey during 1957 was higher than that of 1956 by about 28 percent. The trend has been for large increases in production in recent years, but this has now begun to level off. Market is expected to remain steady with adequate supplies (Chart 34).

Prices will be firm during the second quarter.

CRABS AND CRAB MEAT, FRESH AND FROZEN

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Production of hard crabs along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts is expected to improve considerably during the second quarter. Adverse weather most of first quarter discouraged crabbing. Supplies of dungeness crabs on the Pacific Coast will be limited.

Cold-Storage Holdings

March 1

1958.....2,466,000 Lbs.

1957.....2,389,000 Lbs.

Cold-storage holdings of crabs and crab meat on March 1 were about the same as those on the same date in 1957. Most of these holdings are in the Pacific Coast States.

Prices are expected to drop slightly as increased production occurs during middle of the quarter.

CRABS AND CRAB MEAT, CANNED

Season Pack

1957.....13,639 Std. Cases

1956.....10,359 Std. Cases

Pack - Revised 1957 pack figures for canned crab meat in the Gulf States indicate a 32 percent increase over the 1956 season. However, the total pack was below that of 1955 by almost 40 percent.

CRABS AND CRAB MEAT, CANNED (Cont.)

Imports

January - December

1957..... 6,184,000 Lbs.

1956..... 5,640,000 Lbs.

Imports of canned crab meat during 1957 were up about 10 percent over those in 1956. A slight seasonal increase in these imports is expected during the second quarter. Japan is the principal supplier.

Prices for canned crab meat probably will remain steady.

LOBSTERS, NORTHERN

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

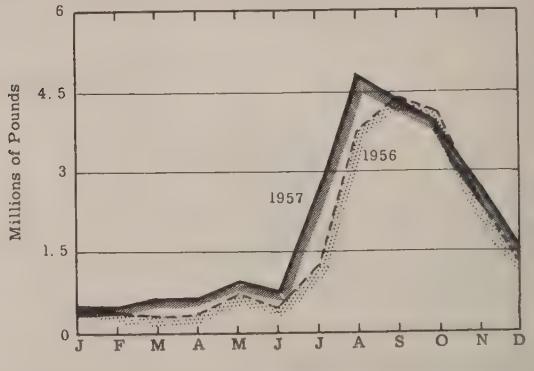
Maine Landings

January - December

1957..... 24,402,000 Lbs.

1956..... 20,572,000 Lbs.

CHART 35 - LANDINGS OF LOBSTERS, MAINE



Landings of Maine lobsters during 1957 increased by 19 percent over 1956, a record year. They will continue at a low level this quarter, only slightly higher than in the first quarter (Chart 35).

LOBSTERS, NORTHERN (Cont.)

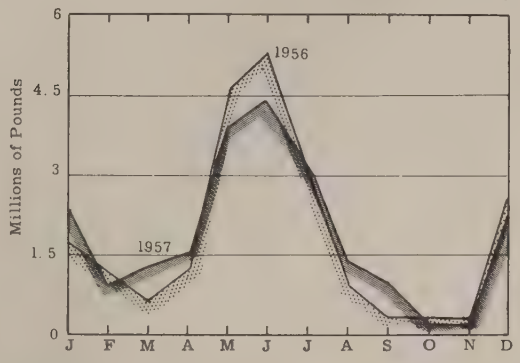
Imports from Canada

January - December

1957.....22,218,000 Lbs.

1956.....22,484,000 Lbs.

CHART 36 - IMPORTS OF LOBSTERS (CANADA)



Imports of lobsters from Canada during 1957 were only about 1 percent below those in 1956. The second quarter is the seasonal high period for northern lobster imports, when approximately 50 percent of the total is entered (Chart 36).

Prices should have a tendency to decrease in view of increased supply during latter part of the second quarter.

LOBSTERS, SPINY

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

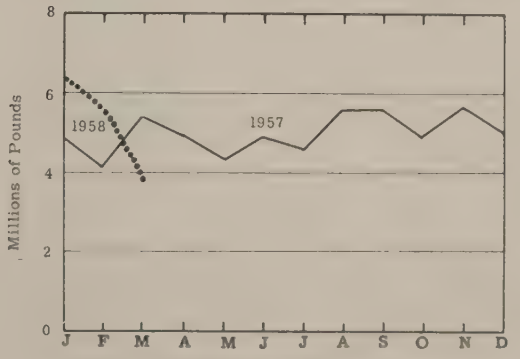
Cold-Storage Holdings

March 1

1958.....3,795,000 Lbs.

1957.....5,281,000 Lbs.

CHART 37 - SPINY LOBSTERS IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-storage holdings of spiny lobsters on March 1 were down about 28 percent below those on the same date a year earlier (Chart 37).

LOBSTERS, SPINY (Cont.)

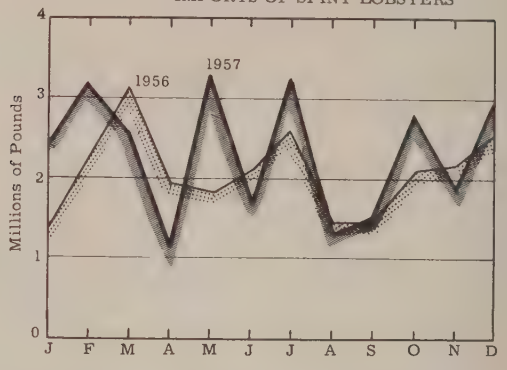
Imports

January - December

1957.....28,182,000 Lbs.

1956.....25,258,000 Lbs.

CHART 38 - IMPORTS OF SPINY LOBSTERS



Imports of spiny lobsters during 1957 increased by 12 percent over those in 1956. These imports usually fluctuate sharply during the second quarter. The Union of South Africa, Australia, Cuba, and New Zealand are the chief suppliers of spiny lobsters to the United States (Chart 38).

OYSTERS, FRESH-SHUCKED

Market - Strong Supplies - Light Demand - Exceeds Supply

Production - With the season drawing to a close, there will be very little production of oysters along the Atlantic Coast. The first quarter harvest was below normal, and the season generally was disappointing.

Prices will most likely continue high.

OYSTERS, CANNED

Market - Firm Supplies - Light Demand - Moderate

Pack - The Gulf States pack through March 15 was 71,269 standard cases (48 cans, 4 2/3 ounces each), less than half of the pack during the corresponding period in 1957. Stocks are low as the second quarter begins.

Prices will continue firm and high during the second quarter.

SCALLOPS, SEA

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

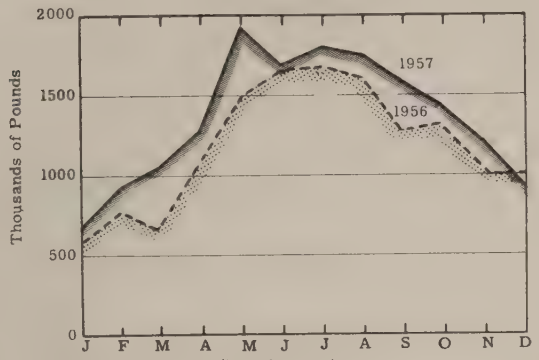
New Bedford Landings

January - December

1957.....16,179,000 Lbs.

1956.....14,353,000 Lbs.

CHART 39 - LANDINGS OF SCALLOPS, NEW BEDFORD



Shucked weight (lbs of meats).

Landings of sea scallops at New Bedford during 1957 were 13 percent higher than those in 1956. The second quarter is a seasonally high production period, and greatly increased landings are expected as has been the trend of recent years (Chart 39).

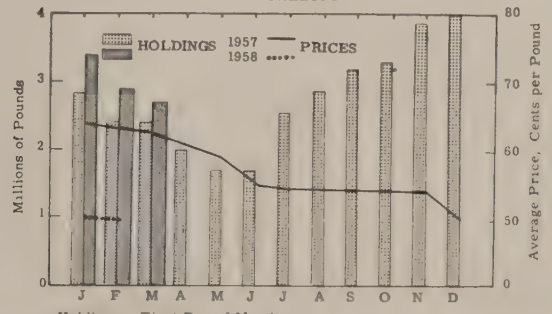
Cold-Storage Holdings

March 1

1958.....2,713,000 Lbs.

1957.....2,332,000 Lbs.

CHART 40 - COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS AND PRICE OF SCALLOPS



Holdings - First Day of Month
Price - Domestic 5-lb. carton, at Boston.

Cold-storage holdings on March 1 were 16 percent higher than those on March 1, 1957 (Chart 40).

Prices will drop slightly as the second quarter landings increase (Chart 40).

SHRIMP, FRESH AND FROZEN

Market - Strong Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Landings, Gulf of Mexico

January - December

(Headless)

1957.....109,000,000 Lbs.*

1956.....115,000,000 Lbs.

*Estimated

Landings of shrimp in the Gulf States during 1957 were approximately 5 percent below those in 1956. The latter part of the second quarter will bring the usual seasonal increase in landings, but supplies are expected to be below demand.

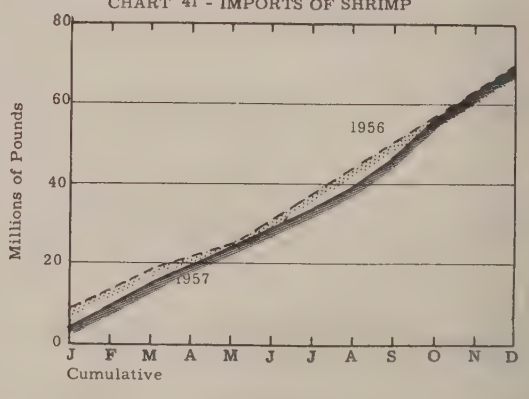
Imports

January - December

1957.....67,772,000 Lbs.

1956.....68,618,000 Lbs.

CHART 41 - IMPORTS OF SHRIMP



Imports of shrimp through December of 1957 were only slightly more than 1 percent below those of 1956. Mexico is the principal supplier of shrimp imported into the United States (Chart 41).

Cold-Storage Holdings

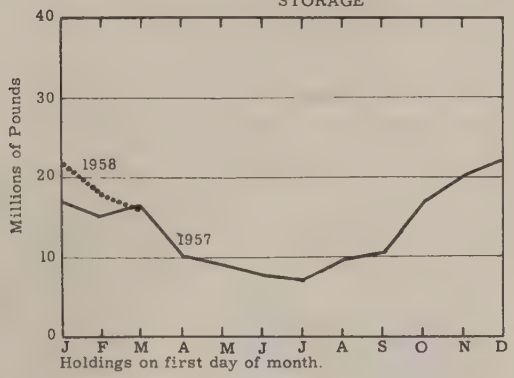
March 1

(Raw Headless)

1958.....16,160,000 Lbs.

1957.....13,829,000 Lbs.

CHART 42- RAW HEADLESS SHRIMP IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-Storage Holdings

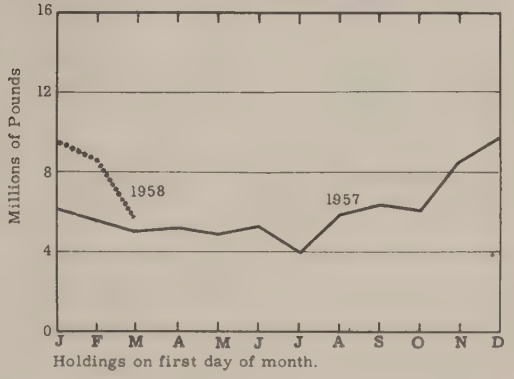
March 1

(All Other)

1958.....5,764,000 Lbs.

1957.....5,292,000 Lbs.

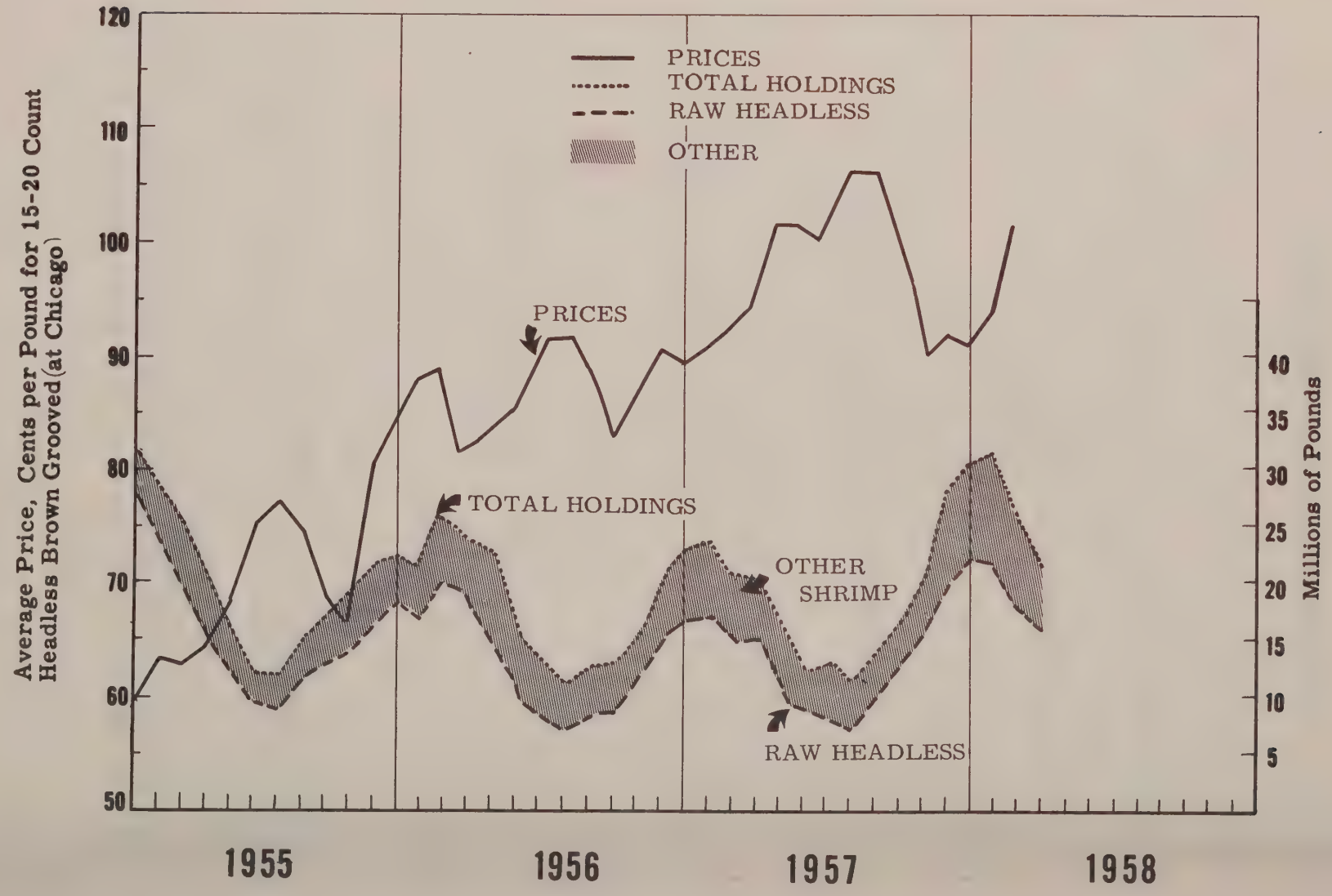
CHART 43 - ALL OTHER (PROCESSED) SHRIMP IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-storage holdings of raw headless shrimp on March 1 were approximately 17 percent higher than those on March 1, 1957. Holdings of all other shrimp, including breaded, were up about 9 percent (Charts 42 and 43).

Wholesale prices at Chicago for headless, 15 - 20 count, brown during February 1958 were 10 percent higher than those of February 1957. Prices should remain firm and high during the second quarter (Chart 44).

CHART 44 - SHRIMP IN COLD STORAGE AND WHOLESALE PRICES



SHRIMP, CANNED

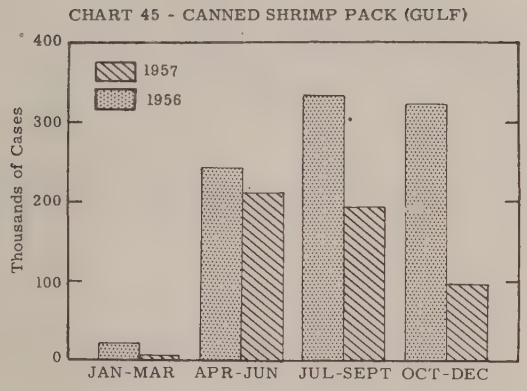
Market - Steady Supplies - Light Demand - Good

Pack

January - December

1957..... 543,847 Std. Cases

1956..... 920,308 Std. Cases



Pack of canned shrimp in the Gulf States during 1957 was very small and stocks are practically non-existant. The 1957 pack was approximately 41 percent below that of 1956. Production should improve during latter part of the second quarter (Chart 45).

A recent development in the market is the new canned shrimp industry in the Pacific Coast States of Washington and Oregon which will prove competitive.

Prices are still high, and will remain firm at a high level reflecting good demand with short supply.

Fresh-water Fish

Cold-Storage Holdings

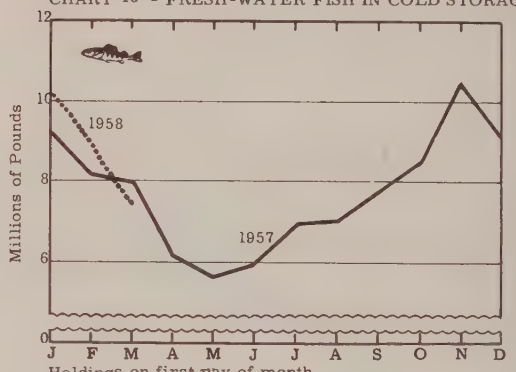
March 1

(United States)

1958..... 7,434,000 Lbs.

1957..... 8,080,000 Lbs.

CHART 46 - FRESH-WATER FISH IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-Storage Holdings

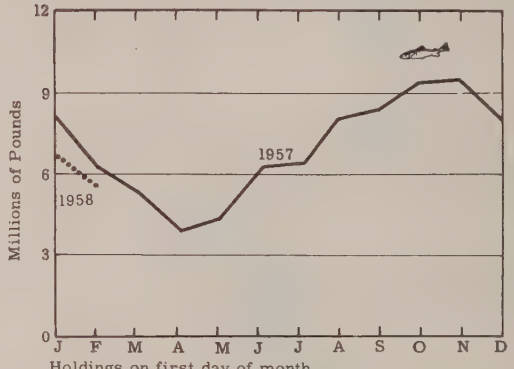
February 1

(Canada)

1958..... 5,600,000 Lbs.

1957..... 6,338,000 Lbs.

CHART 47 - CANADIAN FRESH-WATER FISH IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-storage holdings of fresh-water fish in the United States on March 1 were down about 8 percent from the year earlier. Holdings in Canada on February 1, 1958 were down 11 percent from the preceding year (Charts 46 and 47).

Fish Imports

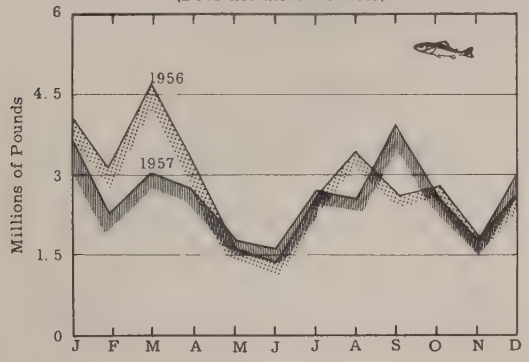
(Canada)

January - December

1957..... 32,163,000 Lbs.

1956..... 34,403,000 Lbs.

CHART 48 - IMPORTS OF FRESH-WATER FISH (CANADA)
(Does not include fillets)



Fillet Imports

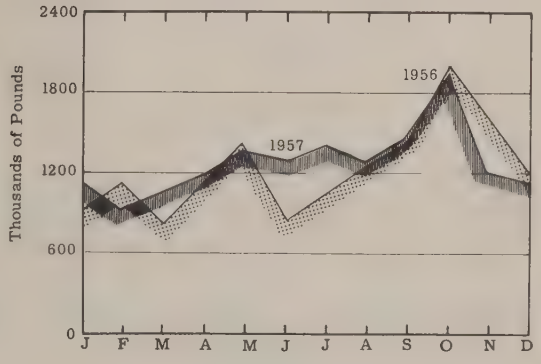
(Canada)

January - December

1957..... 15,632,000 Lbs.

1956..... 15,036,000 Lbs.

CHART 49 - IMPORTS OF FRESH-WATER FISH FILLETS (CANADA)



Imports of fresh-water fish from Canada during 1957 were approximately 7 percent lower than those in 1956. Imports of fresh-water fillets during the same period were up only about 4 percent. Domestic landings of fresh-water fish will be at seasonal high levels, reaching a peak about the middle of the second quarter (Charts 48 and 49).

Prices are expected to fluctuate widely throughout this period.

FISH OIL

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Moderate

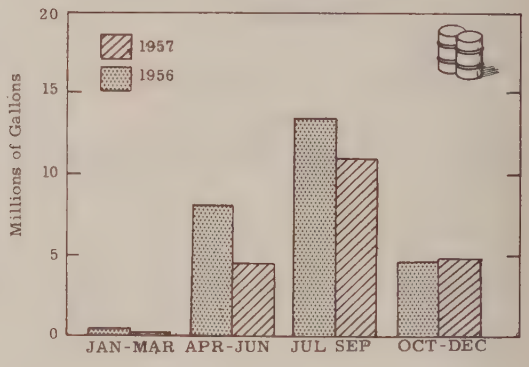
Production

January - December

1957.....19,992,000 Gals.

1956.....26,581,000 Gals.

CHART 50 - FISH OIL PRODUCTION



Production of fish oils in 1957 was down 25 percent from 1956. Second quarter production will gradually rise, but the peak period will be reached in the third quarter (Chart 50).

Exports, January - December

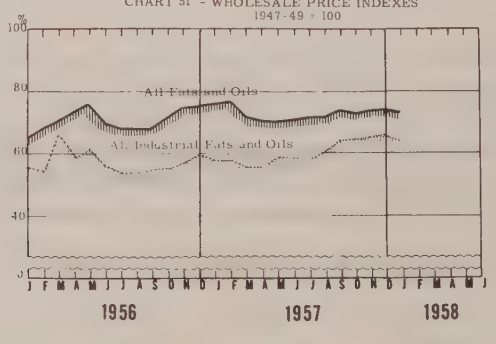
1957.....114,808,000 Lbs.

1956.....140,738,000 Lbs.

Exports of fish oils through the year 1957 were 18 percent less than in 1956. Most of the decrease was accounted for by a decline in the shipments to the Netherlands and West Germany.

Wholesale price index for all fats and oils for January 1958 was 73.2, a drop of 3.2 points from January 1957. The index for all industrial fats and oils was at 63.3, an increase of 4.6 points above a year earlier (Chart 51).

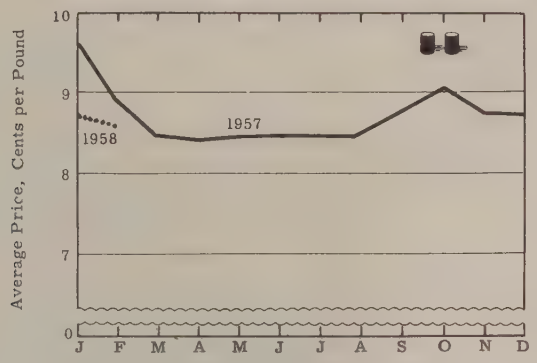
CHART 51 - WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES
1947-49 = 100



FISH OIL (Cont.)

Price of menhaden oil in February, 1958 was 8.59 cents per pound, a drop of 3.3 percent from the same month in 1957, and down 13 percent from January, 1958. Price should level off during the second quarter (Chart 52).

CHART 52 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF MENHADEN OIL



For tank carloads, crude (Atlantic Coast)

FISH MEAL

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Light

Production

January - December

1957..... 240,822 Tons

1956.....273,232 Tons

Production of fish meal during 1957 was 12 percent less than that produced in 1956. These figures represent the production of manufacturers normally accounting for about 90 percent of total. Second quarter production will rise seasonally. Peak production, however, will occur during the third quarter.

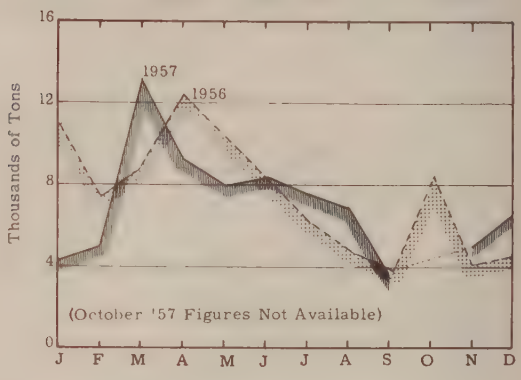
Imports

January - December

1957..... 81,199 Tons

1956..... 90,421 Tons

CHART 53 - IMPORTS OF FISH MEAL



Imports of fish meal during the year 1957 were down about 10 percent below those in 1956. Fish meal imports reach their peak during the first part of the second quarter, then gradually taper off (Chart 53).

CHART 54 - WHOLESALE FEEDSTUFF PRICE INDEX
1947-49=100

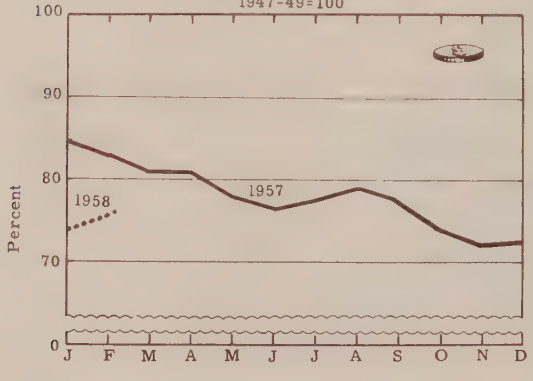
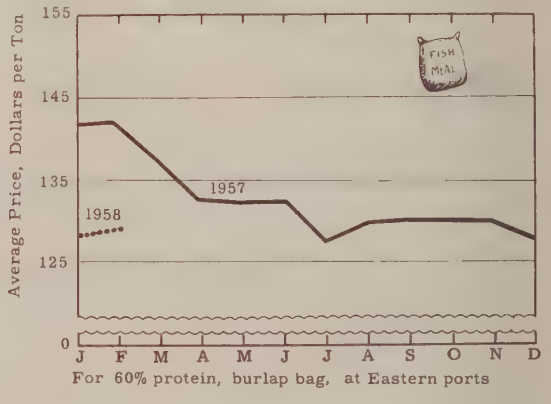


CHART 55 - WHOLESALE PRICES OF MENHADEN MEAL



For 60% protein, burlap bag, at Eastern ports

Wholesale feedstuff price index for February, 1958 was down 6.6 points from a year earlier, and up 2.0 points above the preceding month (Chart 54).

Wholesale price for menhaden meal continues low and in February it was about 9 percent below the same month in 1957. Indications are that prices which would ordinarily drop during this quarter might not do so because of world-wide shortage of production(Chart 55).

The statements appearing in this report are interpretations of past experiences influenced by current indications of what probably will occur. Wide use is made of interviews and correspondence with representative members of the commercial fishing industry, in order to obtain the opinion of the trade as to the business conditions generally expected to prevail during the period of the year covered by the report. Five-year averages are no longer shown because of realignments in statistical reporting.

Sources of Chart Data

Chart 2, U. S. Department of Labor
Charts 10, 25, 27, 29, 36, 38, 41, 48, 49, 53, U. S. Department of Commerce
Charts 51, 54, U. S. Department of Agriculture
Charts 18, 28, California Department of Fish and Game, Marine Fisheries Branch
Chart 47, Canadian Bureau of Statistics

Market Terms Used in This Report

The terms under the headings Market, Supplies, and Demand are intended to indicate the degree of market activity produced by the particular supply and demand situation.

Market refers to movement of supplies and the price structure.

Supplies refers to available stocks, i. e. receipts, imports, cold-storage holdings, and processed fish and shellfish. The terms used are relative and do not signify any particular quantity.

Demand measures the readiness of the trade to absorb supplies.

Market	Supplies	Demand
Excited	Very heavy	Exceeds supply
Stronger	Heavy	Brisk
Strong	Liberal	Active
Active	Moderate-to-Liberal	Good
Firm	Moderate	Improving
Steady	Light-to-Moderate	Moderate
Unsettled	Light	Light
Dull		Slow
Weak		Practically no demand
Demoralized		No demand

Prices refer to those at wholesale or comparable level.

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Some of the publications consulted in preparing this report are listed below. Publications of the Fish and Wildlife Service are not included.

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U. S. Department of Agriculture:
- Agricultural Outlook Digest
- Agricultural Situation
- Cold Storage Report
- Dairy Situation
- Demand and Price Situation
- Fats and Oils Situation
- Feed Market Summary
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- Foreign Crops and Markets
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- Marketing and Transportation Situation
- National Food Situation
- Poultry and Egg Situation
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Joint Committee on the Economic Report
- Economic Indicators

U. S. Department of Commerce:
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- Industry Survey
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- Monthly Wholesale Trade Report
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- U. S. Imports of Merchandise for Consumption

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